Non-functional metal detectors at airports

647. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that not a single door-frame metal detector put up at airports across the country is functional;

(b) whether it is also a fact that he has uncovered a Rs.12 crore door-frame metal detector scam in his Ministry;

(c) if so, whether Government have made any investigations in this matter; and

(d) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) The Security Enforcement Committee during its inspection found that the Door-Frame Metal Detectors (DFMDs) installed by Airports Authority of India at various airports are functional to the extent that they can detect objectionable objects weighing 30 gms. and above. However, the detection pattern of the DFMD is varying irrespective of the weight, depending on the shape/size of an object, its positioning on the body of a passenger and the speed with which he/she walks through the DFMD.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A Committee was constituted to verify from other International Airports if similar variation in detection pattern of DFMDs is experienced. It is found from the experience in Kuala Lumpur International Airport that the DFMD's detection capability is varying and that it needs to be supplemented by Hand Held Metal Detectors (HHMDs) to strengthen security measures.

Food items banned by BCAS

648. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security has struck off pickles from the list of banned items in hand baggage; and